

# THE MCGILL DAILY

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Wednesday, March 4, 1992

## CKUT given vicious rent hike

by James Forbes

Student's Society has decided to hike the rent at McGill's already indebted radio station—to the tune of \$18 000.

The increase at CKUT follows a \$14 000 rent hike imposed on the *McGill Daily* last year. Both organizations are located in the basement of the Student Union building, which is administered but not owned by the Students' Society.

"The policy in the past was to subsidize these fees. But the *Daily* was a precedent," said Students' Society vp internal Alex Johnston. "It would not be fair only to charge the *Daily* and not the other independent groups in the building."

CKUT personnel are less than delighted with the news. "Student's society should be consistent in their policies, but at what expense?" said CKUT station manager Nadine Gelineau.

"The *Daily* and CKUT receive both independent student fees and revenues from outside funding and advertising," Johnston argued. "They, like us, must be fiscally responsible and accountable for their expenses."

"We have approached them with an alternate plan, which they rejected outright," she said.

The alternate plan consisted of a five year capital reserves fund, which would enable CKUT to find a larger more manageable space outside the building.

"This would benefit both us and the Students' Society, as it would free up space for new organizations and clubs," said Gelineau.

But Johnston said the plan was unacceptable. "If a group with no outside funding comes to us for money, and we tell them there is none, it's hypocritical to then turn around and give CKUT \$18 000 when they have other sources of revenue."

Gelineau explained what the rent increase would mean to the station: "We will most likely have to terminate two positions; music programmer and their assistant, and these two jobs represent 65 per cent of our programming."

"We are already running with a \$20 000 deficit in our operating budget," Gelineau added.

"This will further hamper our ability to train new volunteers, and make serving community groups even more difficult," he said.

"We too service the groups on campus, and I think that they



would rather have us at their disposition for training and access than money," she said.

Many campus groups spoke out against the rent increase.

"I think that this move will jeopardize CKUT's programming because it will shift emphasis from accessibility to more advertising oriented programming," said Jeff Cluet of Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays of McGill (LBGM).

"Ultimately, some programming will be cut, and it is likely smaller groups like LBGM and BSN (Black Students Network) that will be affected", he said.

"CKUT is the only reliable voice of the black community in Montreal," Frank Runcie of the BSN. "If they work on a restricted budget, one can't assume that their programming will remain at the same level of excellence."

"I have no idea where the money for this will come from right now, we are mandated to be on the air 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said Gelineau. "This rent increase will only serve to hinder and hamper the station's ability to fulfill that mandate."

## Twelve angry aspiring politicians

by Neelam Sandhu

It's "Angry Young Wo/man" time once again on the McGill student politics scene. The twelve candidates running for executive positions at SSMU are all vying with one another to be the newest, freshest outsider in the race — although for some Students' Society veterans this means running against their own past.

Yesterday the candidates for the Students' Society executive outlined their platforms in a sparsely-populated Union cafeteria. Everyone sang the same themes: a more open, active Students' Council, better communication between Students' Society and the student body, campus safety for women, and a more aggressive attitude toward the McGill administration.

The presidential office is being contested by four people: Rosalind Ward-Smith, Jason Prince, Mitchell Fersten, and Adam Atlas, who didn't speak yesterday.

The best-known of the lot is Rosalind Ward-Smith, current vp university affairs. Ward-Smith stressed her "experience and vision," claiming to be the kind of president who could make sure "every student knows what SSMU is doing."

She promised to make students "more involved, more interested, and more active in lobbying for change at McGill," but gave no concrete suggestions.

Jason Prince, a newcomer to Student Society politics, is a two-year veteran of the Board of Directors of the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), and is involved in organizing a student housing co-op. Included in his platform is a plan to replace Scott's Foods with a student-run non-profit food co-op.

Prince stressed that students must challenge the McGill administration. He criticized the current Executive for not actively supporting Denistry students in their fight against the closure of their faculty.

Fersten, another newcomer on the Students' Society political scene, pledged to "break the establishment barrier, so it isn't always the same people sitting on the same committees running things in the same old way."

His new ideas included an expanded 24-hour MARS system, an all-encompassing recycling program, and better lighting and security for women on-campus and in the ghetto.

The two candidates for vp external, Jeff Percival and Hélène

Mathieu, have both been involved in Students' Society. Mathieu was the Law Rep to Students' Society council, and Percival sat on the External Affairs Committee.

Percival stressed four areas in need of improvement: campus safety, loans and bursaries, SSMU communications, and the services provided by the Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ). He also proposed lobbying for a student GST rebate on books and other essentials.

Mathieu echoed Percival's four main themes, but she was more enthusiastic in her support for FEUQ.

Two candidates are competing for vp university affairs—Monique Shebbeare and Michael Rottmayer. Shebbeare, another insider, currently sits on Council as Residence Representative. She suggested an extended Frosh Week, an accessible course-evaluation handbook, and a full-time official to ensure the implementation of the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Rottmayer, an engineering student who has covered Students' Society issues for the *Daily*, pointed out that tuition and fee hikes have not improved the quality of education at the university. He supported a campus safety audit and promised

to push for greater student input into university financial decisions.

There are three contenders for the position of vp internal: Sean Hanley, Michael Fleischner, and Julie Dzerowicz. Hanley, a member of Amnesty International, called Students' Society a "bungling bureaucracy" that continually makes bad decisions and wastes money administering them.

Hanley wants to improve the food services at SSMU, and hand the kiosk in the Union lobby over to student clubs. He stressed that Students' Council should encourage student initiatives such as the Walk Safe Network, instead of bureaucratically hampering them.

Fleischner, an environmental engineering student, proudly proclaimed "I've never been involved in Students' Society." He expressed disgust with their policies, including the proposed 21st Century Fund, a scheme whereby a fee of \$50 a year towards future improvements at McGill would be added to students' tuition bill, calling it the "stupidest idea I've ever heard of."

Dzerowicz, currently Club Rep on Council, advocated "club restructuring." She wants to "increase the funds of those clubs that provide the most benefits to McGill students."





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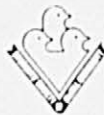
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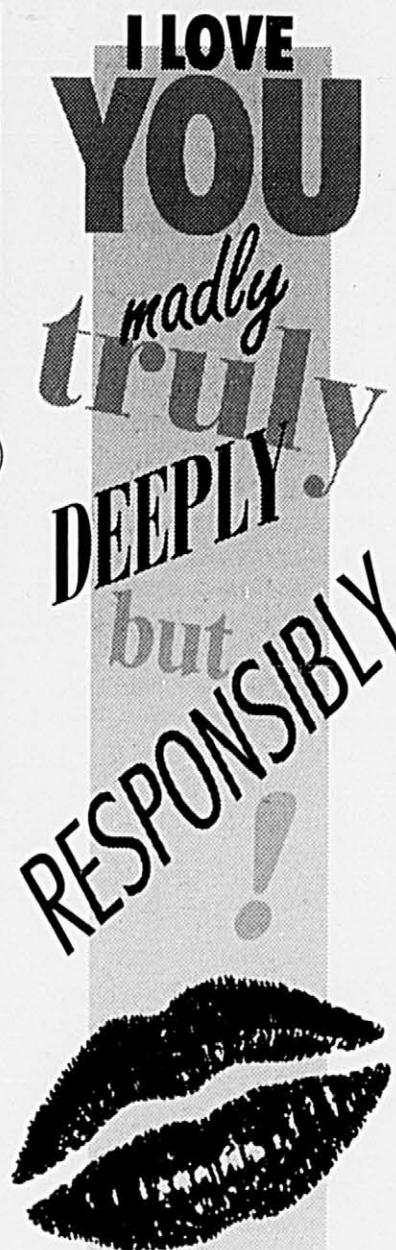
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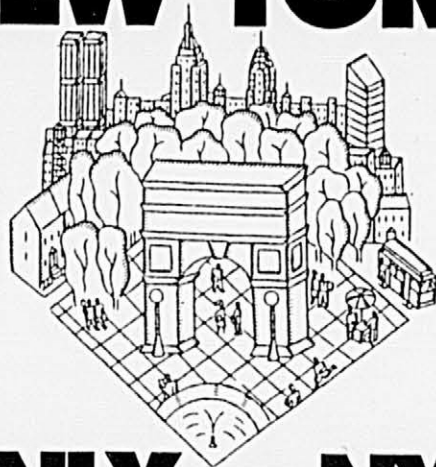
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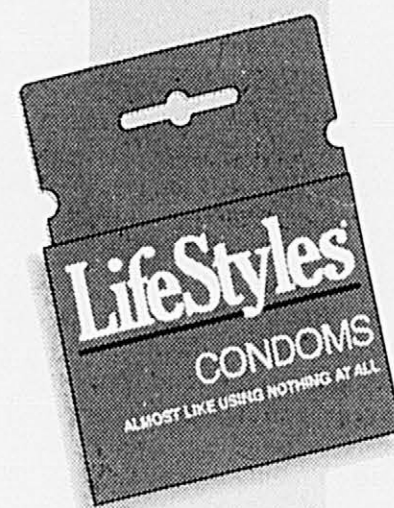
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# Anti-RACIS group targets universities

by Lysandra Marshall

A Montréal anti-racist group is getting a \$93 000 boost from the federal government to fight organized racism on university campuses and in the city.

The Centre Canadien sur le Racisme et les Préjugés (CCRP) will be targeting Montréal universities for one of its projects.

The first step will be an inter-university conference this month on how to deal with academic and organized racism on the campus.

"You'd be surprised by the academic racism that exists on university campuses," said CCRP organizer Donald Gaumont.

Gaumont said a racist computer bulletin board based at McGill circulated racist propaganda until it was closed down.

Also, underground racist organizations such as La Nouvelle Acropole and Opus Die have been organizing at Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and Concordia University.

Gaumont said the CCRP will also fight followers of American right-wing extremist Lyndon Larouche who have set up tables on several Montréal campuses.

The CCRP's agenda is to raise awareness on the problem, and not to "lecture" students and staff about racism.

"At the conference, we'll encourage students and faculty to address course content, campus views and scientific significance given to racism," said Gaumont.

"We want them to develop their own programs to fight racism and set up their own system for monitoring academic racism," he said.

Conference guest speaker Barry Mehler will speak on academia's legitimization of racist researchers or "scientists."

Gaumont cited University of Western Ontario Professor Philippe Rushton as an example of this trend.

The conference is open to all students. Gaumont hoped many on-campus multicultural groups will participate.

Paul Lam, a member of McGill's Chinese Students Society, said his group had received a letter from the CCRP and intended to participate in the conference.

Other groups attending the conference include Concordia anti-racist group SCOPE, Indigenous Peoples International, and many others.

The CCRP is most known for helping families in the Laurentian region deal with children involved in racist gangs.

Another CCRP project helped by the federal grant, "Parents and youth united against racism," educates youth and raises parents' awareness of organized racist groups such as the "skinheads" and neo-nazis.

"We want to make people aware so that these organizations won't grow," said Gaumont. "In these tough economic and political times, our society is desperately looking

for solutions, and racist organizations are taking advantage of this."

Gaumont cited the Front National leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's anti-immigration platform in

France and American right-wing Presidential candidates such as Pat Buchanan as examples of a growing political trend.

"Racism is not a question of values," he added, "it is a question of

politics."

The conference will take place at the Université de Montréal on March 21, 22 and 23. Barry Mehler, a specialist on academic racism, will open debate on Friday.

*There will be workshops all day Saturday, and Gerry Wiener, Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship, will address the panel on Sunday. Admission for students is \$5.*

## A business tax no socialist could love

By David Ley

Opposition to a new Montréal tax hike on businesses is gaining support, even among city groups which usually support higher business taxes.

The Montréal city council imposed a 14 per cent surtax on non-residential properties in December following the Québec government's slashing of subsidies to municipalities for public transportation.

"Normally we are not a pro-business party," said Sam Boskey of the opposition Democratic Coalition of Montréal (DCM). "But in a time of recession it's not good to burden business with more cost."

Community and environmental groups have long lobbied the city to charge businesses taxes to cover the expense of public transportation. But many of them feel that the timing is bad, and the city

did not fight hard enough against the provincial cuts.

"We think that the city has not done enough to fight the Ryan tax cut," said Pierre Gaudreau of FRAPRU, a city housing group. "Though we do not oppose the tax in principle, a new tax right now could put many business out."

Boskey agreed. "We were very angry when the city did very little to fight the provincial payment cut. We were also amazed that the city had done no impact analysis before implementing the tax."

Claude Ryan, provincial minister for municipalities, proposed the cuts after the federal government slashed transfer payments to the province for transportation.

Ecology Montréal, a city environmental party, said although they agreed commerce should pay more for transportation, they felt this tax



Sam Boskey

was unjustified.

"The city should be taking a concerted campaign with other Québec municipalities for a decentralization of municipal powers dealing with transportation," said an Ecology Montréal spokesperson. "This

must come hand in hand with fiscal responsibility."

Some groups did support the tax and felt businesses should pay more for public transportation.

"We are favourable to the new tax, although provincial budget cuts are not a good way to structure a transportation system," said Normand Parisien of Transport 2000.

In general, many groups felt big business should pick up more of the tab for public transport.

"For a long time we've been trying to convince the city that big commercial institutions should carry more of the burden," said Gaudreau.

"Traditionally, three groups have paid for public transportation: the province, the taxpayer and small business. We propose a fourth, the large commercial institutions like the Bay and Eatons."



### CITY BRIEFS

## Sure smells in here... must be biogas

Angry citizens and opposition councillors besieged members of the ruling Montréal Citizen's Movement (MCM) during city council's question period Monday. Opposition members also questioned the MCM's competence and integrity.

The governing party, visibly rattled, vehemently defended its record. Even stoney-faced mayor Jean Doré barked back a few resentful retorts from under that dark moustache.

### Stinky biogas

Democratic Coalition member Marvin Rotrand grilled the MCM on problems stemming from the Miron garbage dump. According to a report in *le Journal de Montréal*, pipes used to extract methane produced from the dump were ill-designed and are now blocked.

Rotrand claimed the construction of the Biogaz methane-removal system was inadequate and urged the city to consider scrapping further spending on the gas-collection project.

Rotrand pointed to evidence from video cameras lowered into the pipe system and from statements by former dump workers.

Executive Committee member and MCM councillor Richard Brunelle defended the project, claiming the problems with the system had been blown out of proportion.

"The system functions," said Brunelle. "The system functions fine."

### Clinic encroaching on residents' nerves

A proposed expansion to a downtown medical research clinic near McGill angered nearby residents. Much of the public question period was taken up by angry locals.

L'Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal (IRCM), located on the corner of des Pins and St-Urbain, has sought the city's permission for further expansion. But irate residents argued the clinic's expansion would decrease local property values, increase noise pollution, remove sidewalks and disrupt traffic flow in the neighbourhood.

"Unfortunately, I have been a neighbour of the clinic for many years," said one resident. "I wonder if the city has eyes on this area becoming an industrial park?"

MCM bigwig Brunelle stressed the importance of the clinic's expansion, but he acknowledged the need for further consultation.

Despite community opposition, the IRCM has expanded on numerous occasions into adjacent residential buildings. Neighbourhood opposition was galvanized last year following the demolition of the low-rent Dudley Apartments for the clinic's expansion.

### Doré doesn't ride a Harley

A member of Montréal's motorcyclist community complained of the city's policy of restricting certain areas from motorcycles.

"Why is the city losing millions in tourist dollars when many tourists will not be able to come on their motorcycles to celebrate the city's 350th birthday," he asked.

The mayor responded that the city is reviewing the bylaw in question but maintained that there are some problems with motorcycles.

### Nick wants more Condos

Civic party member Nick Auf der Maur pressed the city to end its moratorium on conversion of residential units to condominiums.

"There are many more vacancies now than when the MCM took power in 1986, the moratorium should be lifted so that people have the ability to buy their own homes," said Nick. "It's a buyers' market now."

Doré, visibly irritated by Auf der Maur, responded that although the city is reviewing the policy, the removal of the moratorium might harm those who cannot afford to own their own homes.

### Biodome land, no money down

Democratic Coalition party leader Sam Boskey asked about the financial consequences of the city's purchase of the centre Paul-Sauvé, an east-end sports centre and cultural landmark.

Boskey questioned whether the centre's purchase for above market prices was an act of incompetence or corruption. The consequent sale of the land to the Biodome gave the impression that the city was subsidizing the Biodome, he said.

Boskey also asked the mayor Doré to release minutes of the meeting regarding the purchase, as well as city financial data on the site.

Doré responded that the decision to buy the site was made many years ago, before the Biodome ever existed.

### More restaurants in Old Montréal

Several business types criticized the city's decision to end the moratorium on new restaurants in Old Montréal.

"A number of restaurants all over the city are going under, do we really need any more," asked one person during citizens' question period. "Especially in old Montréal, where old buildings can be harmed by increased commercial activity."

*City council meetings are open to the public. You can get a crack at your political representatives in the public question period. Council will next sit April 6th at 19h at City Hall (Metro Champs de Mars). For more info, call 872-1111.*



by Norman Nawrocki

These were stories told by three Kahnawake Mohawks to a small audience at McGill two weeks ago. The event was sponsored by the McGill Native Awareness Coalition. In gut-wrenching testimony, sometimes choking back tears, Wilma and Pauline Lahache and Kenneth Deer described a community now living under a virtual police siege.

Two years after the explosive 78 day land-claims standoff, the 5000 Mohawk residents of Kahnawake still live with unrelenting harassment by the RCMP and Surêté du Québec (SQ) who patrol their territory.

Despite a "no-go zone" for the police, the three speakers said the RCMP and the SQ have turned Kahnawake into a pressure cooker of institutionalized racism by terrorizing the population. Deer, editor and publisher of the Kahnawake community paper *The Eastern Door*, described the three highways cutting through the 25 square mile community southwest of Montréal as "the most heavily patrolled roadways anywhere in Canada, if not in North America."

Deer said police constantly perform random roadside searches of Mohawk vehicles. The procedure has become a routine for police and Mohawks.

"It's put your two hands on the wheel and don't move," said Deer. "The police will then ticket Mohawks for low air in the tires, for dim tail lights, for snow on the windshield, for anything."

He said the police will harass just about anyone who passes through Kahnawake territory. "Anyone who stops at any business in our territory to buy food or clothing is a likely target."

According to Deer, the RCMP once followed a car that had bought gasoline on the reserve. They pulled over the woman driver and asked her if she knew she had bought gas from native people.

she worked as an observer], he told her that he just had to give her a ticket for doing 70 km/h in a 70 km/h zone."

According to Deer, dozens of stories like these are told every week among the residents of Kahnawake and to anyone outside who will listen.

But SQ spokesperson Andre Blanchette said only seven per cent of the people stopped by police on the three highways patrolled around Kahnawake were Mohawk. The rest are non-natives, he said. Blanchette couldn't give an exact figure about the number of SQ officers patrolling the Kahnawake territory.

With the impact of the recession, the end of bingo and the cigarette trade, and the high cost of families fighting ongoing legal battles, police harassment has hurt local businesses.

### School's out

Pauline Lahache, a Mohawk artist and teacher at the 200-pupil Kahnawake Survival School said in the five minutes it takes her to drive to and from work each day, she sees at least four patrol cars in either direction.

"Everyday no less than two or three Mohawks are pulled over in their cars by the RCMP or the SQ," she said. "They're parked all the time across from the school. Everyone, students and staff, is afraid of being stopped for one reason or another."

Lahache told of one 16 year old Mohawk who refused to give his name to police when he was stopped walking down a road.

"He was hauled off to the police station, held overnight and charged with assaulting a police officer," she said. "He's still in court over it."

Lahache said the 34 teaching staff at the school "are trying to make the school day as normal as possible for the children, to get their minds off what happened two summers

# Non-stop

Imagine a ten year old schoolboy cutting his finger to dab blood on his words, "that's what the police want."

Or how about a 17 year old, in a fit of rage, grabbing a broom and using it to machine guns invisible police and politicians while he

Or a four-year old girl, in the front seat of a car who routinely threatens her mother if the police have gone so she can sit up.

The stories go on. But these aren't the children of Belfast or outside Montréal. They're the Mohawk survivors of what native

As a mother, Lahache saw her 17 year old son grapple with a Canadian soldier during one of the army forays into Kahnawake in 1990.

She heard him yell at the soldier, "You tear gassed my mom, you're trying to kill my mom."

"In his eyes," she said, "he was trying to protect the land and protect me."

In her classroom, students will sometimes break down crying, talking about how they are willing to die to defend their land, said Lahache.

She said the pressure of being the role model or "sounding board" for the students each day in school isn't easy.

"I'm still having a hard time myself com-

ing to terms with what happened here," said Lahache. "We, as teaching staff, are going through stress therapy to work it out for ourselves."

She also referred to the anti-native, racist rage that shook the adjacent francophone community of Chateaugay during the 1990 standoff following the Mohawks solidarity closure of the Mercier Bridge.

Mohawks were beaten up outside their territory, chased from local shopping malls by gangs of non-natives, and picked up and tortured by the SQ. Mobs of non-natives tried to storm the native barricades and called for an all-out army assault on Kahnawake.

"The children don't understand the burning of effigies, the stoning of their people, of their families [by Chateaugay residents]," she said.

## TRY KEEPING SCORE

Want to see racism at work in the judicial system? Try keeping score of the convicted in the current "Mohawks vs the State" round of trials arising out of the Oka standoff.

Compare their numbers with the non-natives never arrested, never charged or let off lightly during the rampages at Chateaugay that summer.

It's no surprise, said Kenneth Deer, editor of *The Eastern Door*, a Kahnawake newspaper.

"Take for example, the stoning of the convoy of Mohawk cars," he said. "They were full of women, children and the elderly fleeing Kahnawake, fearing an imminent attack by the Canadian army."

"People were hurt," said Deer, "One man later died of a related heart attack."

Of the eleven non-natives charged with throwing stones, only three went to court. They got discharges on the condition they donate \$500 to charity. They received no criminal record.

Throughout the rioting in Chateaugay, when rocks were thrown at police, a total of 25 non-natives were arrested. No-one was ever charged.

"When non-natives stopped ambulances or destroyed food headed for Kahnawake, in front of the police, again, no one was charged. No one talks about this," added Deer.

Also, none of the police who assaulted Mohawks have ever been charged. "It's your word against mine, and you're an Indian," as one cop said, according to Deer.

Meanwhile, two Mohawks, Ronald (Lasagna) Cross and Gordon (Noriega) Lazore, were recently convicted and sentenced on a range of charges.

"Lasagna got five and a half years for beating up someone. No one gets that heavy a sentence for that kind of assault," said Deer, "Noriega was just a bystander but he got three years."

Deer called the sentencing excessive. "Who says there's any fairness in the application of the law." The prosecution is now appealing their sentences, in the hope of getting harsher sentences for both men.

Hundreds of Mohawks face upcoming trials. Among them:

- the "T.C. 39," a group arrested in October 1990, as they left the Oka treatment centre. Group members face a total of 98 charges, ranging from participation in a riot to possession of dangerous

weapons. Jury selection, which will last about a month, began Monday at the Palais de Justice in Montréal.

- the "2 x 4s," a group of eight arrested in a January '91 confrontation with police outside a Kahnawake lumberyard. (trial begins May 1st)

- the 14 arrested September 1990 on a Kahnawake Island as the community confronted the army attempting to take a bridge (trial begins May 1st).

Add to this list another group of 200 Kahnawake residents facing any number of charges because of blank warrants now in the hands of the RCMP and the SQ.

"With these blank warrants, the police don't need anyone's name in order to charge them," said Deer. "They can use photos to identify and charge whoever they want."

-Norman Nawrocki



Army teargassing Mohawk residents of Kahnawake, Sept. 18, 1990

"They asked her if she realized she could have been raped or robbed by the Indians," Deer said, "They didn't realize she was native." The RCMP later denied the story.

In another incident, the RCMP pulled over a volunteer human rights observer working with the Mohawks. When she asked for the officer's name, he refused.

"But when she pulled down her visor to show him her official papers [which showed

ago."

But the constant police presence makes this difficult. It's only now, two years later that the teachers are noticing students experiencing the after-effects of Oka, she said.

"Students are drawing pictures of soldiers and cops, guns, knives, and graveyards all the time," she said. "They aren't turning to violence against each other, but are angry with themselves for not being able to do something."

DAILY PHOTO: LINDA DAWN HAMMOND

DAILY PHOTO: LINDA DAWN HAMMOND

Little



# op harassment

...dab blood on a drawing of his people — all dead — because, in  
...a broom and turning his classroom into a mock battlefield  
...while his classmates cry.  
...routinely ducks her head at the sight of any police cruiser, asking  
...fast or South Africa. They're from Kahnawake, Québec, just  
...t natives call "the Canadian crisis at Oka."

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In the room where Lahache spoke, she gestured to the 20 foot high ceiling, "We had to face helicopters full of soldiers, their guns ready, flying as close as this. Military jets strafed our territory. How do you explain all of this to children?"

## But why?

Deer speculated the unrelenting police intimidation in Kahnawake is meant to break the Mohawk's

spirit.

"When we reported the incidents of harassment to Claude Ryan, (Québec's Public Security Minister), he wouldn't believe us, he didn't want to hear about it," said Deer. "All he wants is for us to take down our checkpoints."

There are four Mohawk checkpoints now ringing the entrances to the village of

Kahnawake. Each consists of a little wooden guardhouse, a concrete roadway barrier, and a handful of Mohawks standing guard. Hand-painted signs nearby warn, "No RCMP or SQ access allowed." Visitors to the village are politely asked their destinations, the purpose of their visit and how long they intend to stay.

"Since we gave up the Mercier Bridge in 1990," said Deer, "the checkpoints, though symbolic, are an assertion of our sovereignty. But for the Canadian government, they're a pain in the side."

The police used to try to get past the checkpoints, said Deer, but this doesn't happen often any more.

Deer said Mohawks object to the government's use of the Canadian Criminal Code when dealing with natives. Any attempt we make to assert the least amount of independence is immediately criminalized, he said.

Negotiations with the government over

their land claims are at a standstill, said Deer. Meanwhile, Mohawks go on trial and the police won't go away.

To support the Mohawks, contact the Mohawk Nation office at 638-5464. The Mohawks welcome bilingual volunteers from known, established community groups to join teams of observers to help monitor police activity on their territory. Contact The Mohawk Human Rights Watch Committee at 638-5464.

To help with trial costs send money to: Liberation of Mohawk Defense Fund, PO Box 1987, Account #80186, Kahnawake, Québec, Canada, J0L 1B0, or 638-5464.

The Akweks Fund, c/o The Canadian Rights and Liberties Federation, 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ont, K1N 7Z2, Fax 613-237-5969.

The Mohawk bi-weekly, The Eastern Door is available by mail (one year sub for \$39) from Box 326, Kahnawake, Mohawk Territory, J0L 1B0.

## Just routine police violence

Her three-day old baby girl in her arms, the 31 year old mother was homeward bound from the hospital. Beside her, behind the wheel of the car, her husband was beaming at the newest family member.

But what should have been a joyful occasion became another scene of police violence. Last week at McGill, Wilma Lahache, the Mohawk mother, told her story.

They were driving home to Kahnawake through Chateauguay the night of October 29, 1991, she said, when the police tried to cut off their car three times.

"They'd slam on their brakes in front of us but never try to stop us," she said. When her husband, Philip Deer, turned off the highway onto an exit, three police cars boxed them in. An RCMP car blocked the road ahead, another pulled alongside, and an SQ car was behind.

"I got out of our car to ask the driver (of the SQ car) why he was driving like that, trying to kill us," she said. "He yelled at me, pulling at my arm. I told him I had a baby in my arms, that I just got out of the hospital. I showed him my hospital bracelet, but he kept yelling at me, hitting me."

"My husband yelled at him not to hit me, not to touch me or the baby." But the SQ officer said "What do you expect? You're Indian."

"He tried to hit the baby," Lahache said, "but I moved her out of the way and he hit me in the stomach. So I kicked him in the leg and ran."

Lahache said she was able to pass the baby to another woman nearby, telling her to take the baby to her mother's, while the police chased her "like a swarm of bees." She ran in circles, trying to get away, until they grabbed her, slamming her onto a police car and cuffing her behind her back.

Her husband kept yelling at them as he was being beaten to leave her alone.

Finally she was shoved into a police car and it spun off, siren wailing, the driver occasionally slamming on the brakes so she would lurch forward in the backseat. One of the SQ officers took his gun, turned around from the front seat and waved it in her face saying he'd use it on her. During the harrowing ride, she said she didn't know if she'd live or die.

"Outside the station," she said, "they beat me, lifted me by the cuffs and left me on the ground. Then they threw me into a cell."

"I could hear my husband pleading with them from down the hall, telling them I just gave birth, not to hurt me, but they didn't care," she said. They called an ambulance only after her husband insisted and took her back to the hospital. Next day, at another hospital, doctors put a brace on her arm, injured the night before.

Lahache and her husband were both charged with assaulting a police officer and obstructing him in the line of his duty.

On January 6th, 1992, after several court appearances, she and her husband were both tried, convicted and sentenced to 15 days each — *ex parte* — when neither they nor their lawyer were present in the Longueuil courtroom. Their lawyer had given them the wrong trial date.

Two days later, Lahache and her husband were jailed. After an appeal, both were released on bail. The Montreal judge was astonished, she said, to hear about the *ex parte* procedure.

Now Lahache says she's terrified to leave the house alone. And since the incident, police stop her and her husband all the time, she said. Once, when their car was hit in a parking lot, she decided not to report it.

"All they'd say to me is, 'What do you expect, you're Indian.'"

-Norman Nawrocki



Little girl playing in front of Mohawk barricade at Oka, summer 1990



# THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

## Automobile, egomobile

Rip up the roads. Chew the streets. Cars are evil. Our cities are exclusively designed to accommodate private automobiles. Suburbs, endless avenues and boulevards, overpasses and interchanges are expressly reserved for our egomobiles. Montréal, gridded with autoroutes and expressways since the 50s, ignores humans at every streetcorner.

Straight well-paved roads also don't make for good neighbourhoods. Downtown streets like St-Hubert and St-Urbain have devolved from quiet residential thoroughfares into gridlocked eyesores. Instead of being designed for meeting people or simply dawdling, streets are now designed for moving vehicles at the most rapid pace.

A city dominated by cars requires that its citizens adopt an inhumane lifestyle. We now must mingle in anonymity in underground malls, safe from car exhaust and the rush hour melee.

Our culture's obsession with private cars has meant the downfall of other, less environmentally damaging means of transportation. While our taxes provide massive subsidies for trucking companies in the form of free roads and bridges, trains, which consume less fuel, produce less pollution and require less space is the government's lowest priority.

Riding a bike in Montréal or any other North American city is, to say the least, hazardous to your health. Streets are designed for cars and all others must adapt. Travel by foot in the city is just impractical. The distances and dimensions are all wrong.

We have heard so much about the lack of greenspace in this city. Why so? It's because we have paved it all over. Parking lots and roads are somehow judged "more important" than trees.

As a result, something as natural as rain or snow becomes a drainage problem — and by extension, a removal problem. We have hidden all the dirt that would ordinarily absorb most of this precipitation. Because of our dependency on the car, oil, salt and garbage are washed or dumped directly into our waters supplies.

Like a drug, cars create a dependency which ends up controlling us. We are forced to adapt our life and our surroundings to this supposed freedom. It limits our options and steals freedom from others.

In many large North American cities, if you don't have a car, you are effectively immobilized. Now, with suburban malls and long city streets we have no choice but to use a car if we want to enjoy the same "freedom" as other car addicts. Our freedom to not use a car is very limited.

The solution goes beyond switching to cleaner fuels and using less non-renewable resources in automobile manufacturing. The magic lure of the private car and the illusion of freedom that it provides must be shown for what it is. Only then will putting the cars and autoroutes out to pasture become a reality.

Eric Smiley

Peter Clibbon

LETTERS

### Frustrated with Romano

To the Daily:

I am writing in response to the two letters that reprimanded the BSN for insisting that a professor of African descent teach the Black History class.

I am frustrated with people like Romano, Tae, and Doerksen who refuse to understand that a black professor is of primary importance to us. As a first year student, I was deeply saddened with the lack of curriculum pertaining to the Black Experience at this University.

I took an African history class that I thought would fulfill my needs. But, this class greatly disappointed me, partially because the professor was not very exposed to African History, nor did he seem to possess a vast knowledge of issues pertaining to Africa and its peoples.

We need a professor who is FULLY QUALIFIED to give us our story when it comes to Black History. And yet, when we make this demand, we are

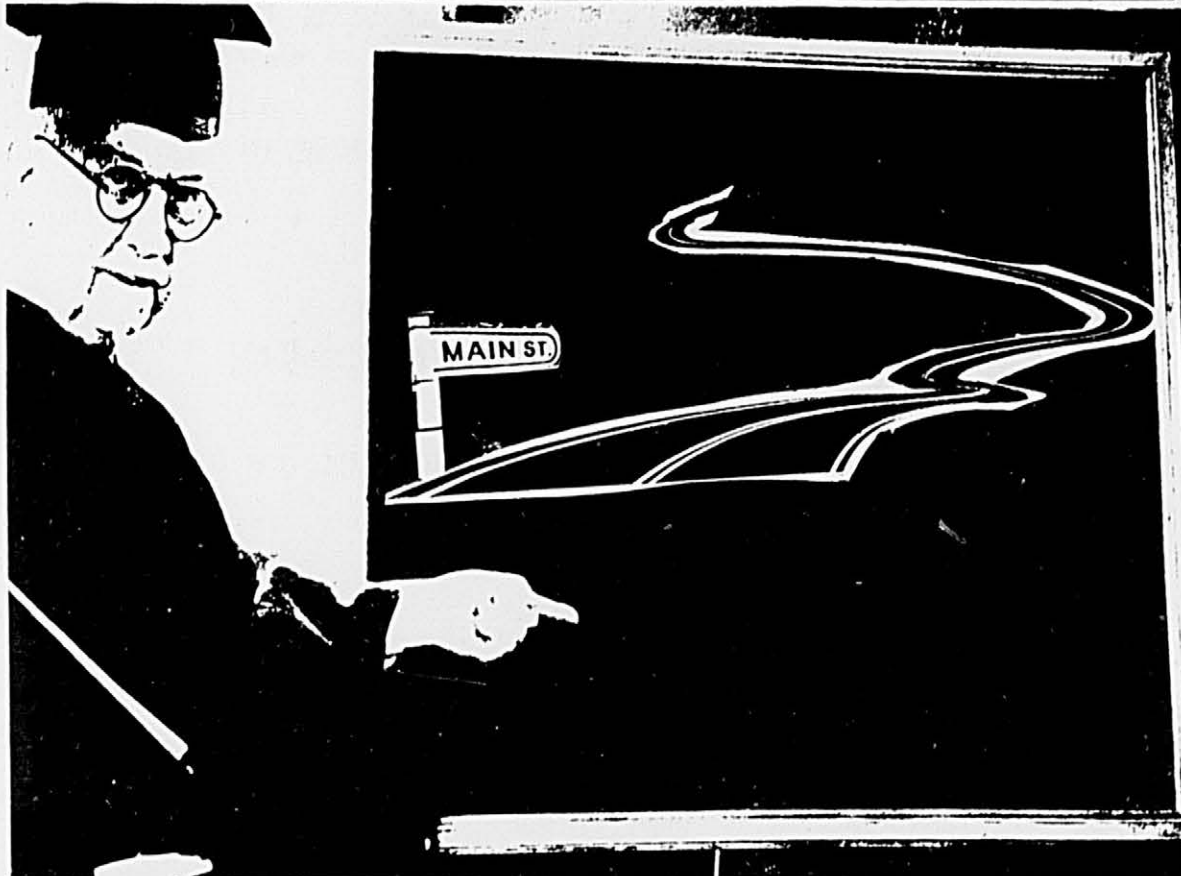
accused of being segregationists. Very few people would disagree that women should teach women's studies courses. It just so happens as well that most of the people teaching European History are white males. This is not an accident, this is a result of centuries of direct racism, discrimination and genocide on the part of the very same people who now accuse us of racism in reverse.

Chikondi Mseka  
Arts U1

### Menstruation envy

To the Daily:

In another all-too-typical tirade, C. Doerksen, Visiting History anti-feminist, again attempts to bully men away from any indictment of sexism (letter, Jan. 15). In an unusually candid show of menstruation envy, he browbeats us with metaphors such as "self-flagellation" and "signing (confessions) in blood" to try and ridicule any acknowledgement of male privilege, control, and yes, sexist violence as structural features of our



LETTERS

Kelly Gallagher-MacKay  
Coordinator, Walk Safe Network

EVENTS

Wednesday, March 4

**Palestine Solidarity Committee** is having an exhibition on Palestinian Women. There will be food, and free Arabic coffee. Union 302 10h-17h.

**Prof. Rhoda Howard** speaks on "Perverse Perspectives on Human Rights in Africa", Concordia University, Norris Building, room 408, 1435 Drummond. 18h.

**Redpath Museum** presents Dr. Phillip Currie on "Ancient Dragons: the Dinosaurs of China and Canada". Redpath Museum Auditorium, 18h.

**International Socialists** host a public meeting on "Women and Revolution: The History of International Women's Day." Union 310, 19h30.



society. Despite his principled allegiance to good ole "liberal individualism," Doerksen seems to toe the line of an identity politic of its own, that is the male cover-up of what he ineffectually parodies as "sin." Hey, What else is new?...

On the issue of *male bonding*, Doerksen offers a few lame "jokes" to deny that it is a cause of rape. Why not look up what rapists themselves say about it: *Men on Rape*, Tim Beneke, 1984; *Against our will: Men, Women and Rape*, Susan Brownmiller, 1976. Initiation rites into gangs, fraternity "railroadings" and "beachings," white racist boys' nights out, male cronies providing character testimonials for rapists... check out how men in groups ingratiate themselves to each other. Also, look at the stats on the ratio of gang/individual rapes (almost half). Or, if this seems safer ground, read Levi-Strauss and other (non-feminist even!) anthropologists on the historical use of women as currency between men.

Male bonding isn't limited to group settings: you can be sucked in by yourself, through your pornography or your TV sportscast... Or reading Doerksen, if you are so inclined.

To answer a final concern of C.D., Montréal Men Against Sexism is not just me (there are currently 7 of us). The way we avoid male bonding is by choosing to meet, speak, and act, not "as men" but as *gender dissidents*, which is quite fun, really, give yourself a break, man... We are accountable to feminists and we challenge each other on our still-male-but-evolving behaviours. Try us, try yourself... 527-0622

Martin Dufresne  
Montréal Men Against Sexism

### Safety Audit Clarifications

To the Daily:

Walk Safe Network has been supportive of the university

administration in its plan for a safety audit. Therefore, it seems some clarification of the implications, if not the specific point of the *Daily's* article of Monday Feb 17/92.

The long-term benefit of the safety audit is still a student concern — McGill should be safer for all students, especially women. However, the process of auditing the campus is mostly for the benefit of the administration. They are ultimately going to determine the budget allocations that will (or will not) improve safety conditions. The audit is one possible way for them to avoid repeating disasters such as the \$10 000 "red phones" that are currently unused.

Student participation is vital, if the university is going to gather information truly reflective of women's experience of threat. But the involvement of four student groups plus a broad appeal for volunteers across campus is an effective way to ensure that participation. A forum on safety concerns is a good idea — but it is *not* the same thing as the audit. Walk Safe is hoping to hold a forum with reps from the Dean of Students' Office, campus security and the police to give students a chance to express general concerns in addition to the safety audit. The audit is a process to allow detailed consideration of physical and psychological threats within the university audit. Obviously, the audit is not going to make the campus any safer by its mere presence. But without the audit, we would be stuck with the hodgepodge of inadequate measures that has constituted the administrations approach to safety so far. The audit is the basis for *coherent* commitment, which Walk Safe is not alone in considering long overdue.

Finally, to the extent that students can benefit directly from the audit, it is by an increased sensitization to specific risks, an issue that went undiscussed in the article.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### 14 - Notices

**Hacking sounds abound** and re-sound around the flound-er... but Her-ring's only a laugh. Submission deadline March 16, Union 406.

**Women's Vision of the Night** photo contest from VISION, Quebec PIRG. Deadline: March 11. Submissions to SSMU Mailboxes in the Union and Eaton Building 505. PRIZES!

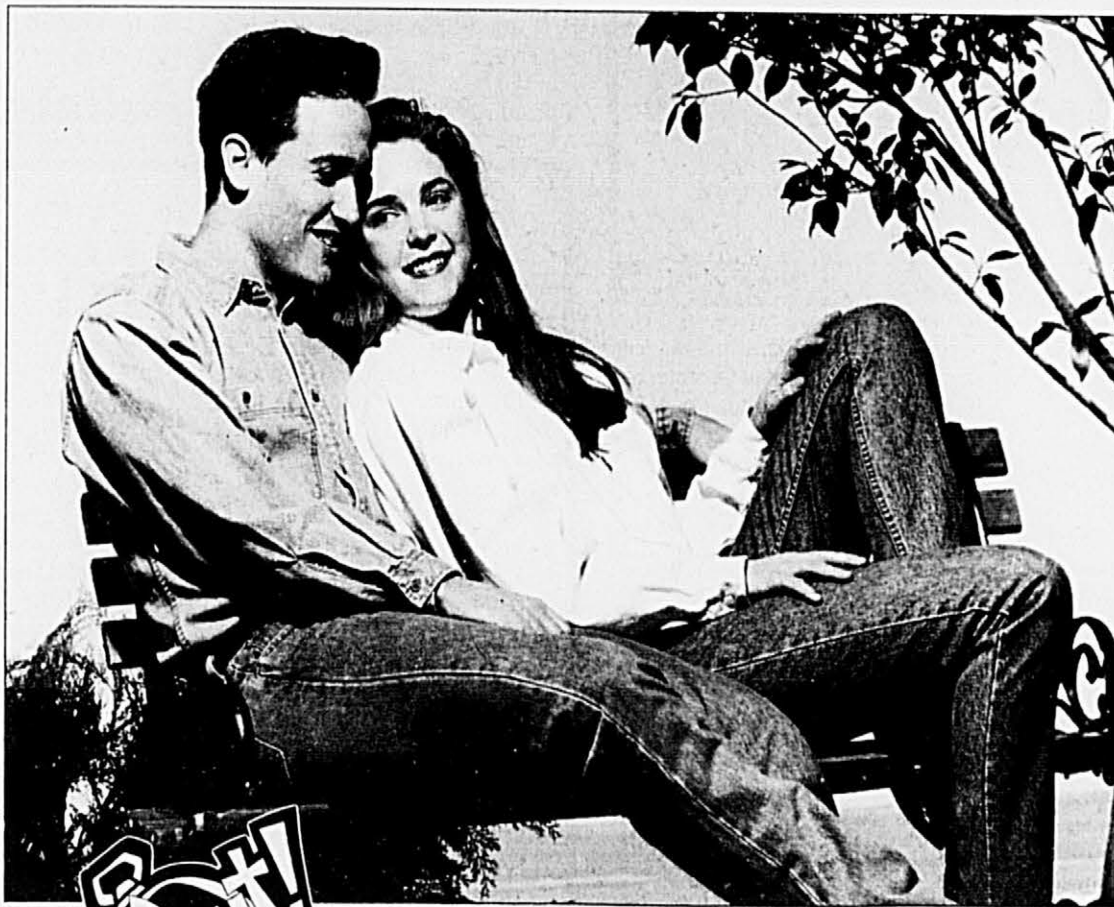
**Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays of McGill** offers peer counselling 5 days per week. Drop in or give us a call. 398-6822. Union 417.

### 15 - Volunteers

**Volunteers (right-handed)** needed for Brain Imaging Research at the Montreal Neuro. Inst. Two visits required. Remuneration of \$100.00 after completion of the study. For details call Bessie (398-8904) or Annie (398-8504).

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# The challenge of black studies

by Sharon Stewart

A coalition of student and community organisations is presenting a forum, "The Challenge of Black Studies," next week.

The forum was organised to gather community support for a Black Studies Program.

Guest speakers will address various topics including McGill's relationship to the black community, the existing Black Studies Major Program at Dalhousie, and the current need for curriculum reform at McGill.

Leith Hamilton, Leo Bertley, Junia Wilson, Althie Roberts, Dorothy Wills and student representative Adrian Harewood will speak at the forum.

"A forum of this kind is useful for the whole range of educational levels as it widens the constituency of support for the students, so that they're not just an isolated group," said Roberts.

The forum follows a decision by the history department's curriculum committee on a proposal by the Black Students' Network (BSN). The department rejected the two courses proposed by the BSN in favour of a similar course proposed by a faculty member.

The course, on slavery and abolition in the United States, will be taught next fall. Citing financial reasons, the department has refused the BSN's request to hire a staff member of African descent to teach the course.

The forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the implications of hiring professors of African descent to teach Black Studies courses.

Dr. Dorothy Wills, formerly of Vanier College, says a community forum is not only needed now, but "is always necessary as it forges a link between the student community and the black community".

Audrea Golding, BSN coordinator of the forum, hopes the forum will bring about "a more concerted effort between the members of the BSN and the black community to push for the program. Only through a united effort will the university take our de-

THE MASSES MUST BE EDUCATED TO SERVE THE SYSTEM!



mands seriously."

Next week's discussion is being hosted by the Black Students' Network (BSN), Afrikan Alliance in Action, the Congress of Black Women and the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association.

The forum will take place Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 pm in Leacock 13. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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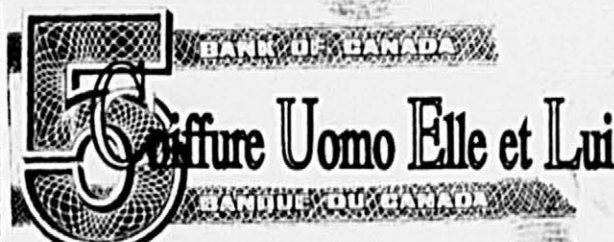
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